

## Remarks

### Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the “*ldh*” designation of *Streptococcus rattus* strain JH145 because the claim language “wherein said *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient” makes the “*ldh*” designation redundant. Claim 1 has also been amended to add the term “strain” after *Streptococcus rattus* for consistency. Claim 11 has been amended to correct its dependency. These are not narrowing amendments.

Amendments to the claims made herein and by the Examiner’s amendment of December 9, 2010, are made without prejudice or disclaimer. They are fully supported by the specification as filed and do not introduce new matter. Additionally, these amendments and cancellations are not and should not be construed as admissions regarding the patentability of the claimed or canceled subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of previously presented claims or any broader claims in this or in any other appropriate patent application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments presented herein.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 16, 2010 By:

/Lisa M.W. Hillman/  
Lisa M.W. Hillman, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. 43,673  
217-239-1962